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### **Sen. Hardiman honors former Henry Paideia Academy principal**

**LANSING** – The former principal of the Grand Rapids Henry Paideia Academy, Ruth Jones, was honored by Sen. Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood, before the state Senate on Wednesday.

This special presentation honored Jones for her dedication to education and work in the Grand Rapids community. With her guidance and compassion, the Henry Paideia Academy went from one of the worst schools in the district a school that is recognized nationwide. The academy has since been recognized in magazines and educational journals as a model school.

“I continue to be impressed and touched by her compassion and commitment to the Grand Rapids community,” Hardiman said. “I am honored to recognize her before my colleagues. She is an extraordinary woman from whom we can all learn something.”

Grand Rapids Public Schools Superintendent Bert Bleke attended the Capitol ceremony and paid tribute to Jones.

“Ruth continues to be a blessing for not only for the children and parents at Henry School, but the entire community,” Bleke said. “She has touched and changed hundreds of lives.”

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**Editor’s note: Photographs of the ceremony are available on the Sen. Hardiman’s photowire page at [senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/Hardiman/Hardiman.htm](http://senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/Hardiman/Hardiman.htm).**